

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02911 101003Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSCE-00

PA-01 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /030 W

-----068781 101013Z /11

O 100927Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 376

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2911

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, KS, US

SUBJ: ASSURANCES IN RESPONSE TO REPORT OF BLUE HOUSE BUGGING

REF: STATE 91078

1. POLCOU W HAS DISCUSSED OPTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL WITH MOFA'S PARK SANG-YONG. PARK STATED THAT SOME FORM OF ASSURANCE IN WRITING WAS REQUIRED FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES AND THEREFORE OPTION OF RELYING ON ORAL STATEMENTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 6 WOULD NOT SUFFICE. HE STATED MOFA HAD NO NEED TO MAKE LETTER PUBLIC BUT THAT INTERNALLY THERE WAS A NEED FOR IT TO GOIUEYOND PRESENT TEXT. HE WAS PLEASED EXPRESSION OF REGRET AT END OF LETTER WOULD BE POSSILBE BUT WAS STILL EXTREMELY BOTHERED BY THE ENCLOSURE FORMAT ADOPTED. HE WAS ALSO DISTURBED BY THE REFERENCE TO AN ARTICLE IN THE WASHINGTON POST WHICH HE SAID LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ROKG WAS BEING TOLD TO READ THE NEWSPAPER.

2. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT HE COULD OFFER NO ENCOURAGEMENT THAT EVEN IN ITS PRESENT FORM, WITH ENCLOSURE, THE LETTER COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED BEYOND THE EXPRESSION OF REGRET ALREADY NOTED. HE STATED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED THAT MOFA HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO QUIET PUBLIC CONCERN ON THE BASIS OF ORAL ASSURANCES PROVIDED

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BY THE AMBASSADOR AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED TO THE PRESS. HE NOTED THAT CONCERN HAD APPEARED TO DIMINISH BUT NOW SEEMED TO BE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING FANNED, WHAT WITH A HOUSEWIVES' DELEGATION VISITING THE EMBASSY AND A PLANNED MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12. (BOTH THESE LATTER TOPICS COVERED SEPTELS.)

3. PARK AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN NEED FOR LETTER FOR INTERNAL USE AND PUBLIC CONCERN. ULD CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR AMENDMENT TO THE LETTER WHICH WOULD OBVIATE NEED FOR ENCLOSURE, PARTICULARLY REFERENCE TO TURNER QUOTE. HE STRESSED THAT SINCE STATEMENT ON BUGGING HAD BEEN MADE BY FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO KOREA IT COULD NOT BE LIGHTLY DISMISSED BY THE ROKG. POLCOUNS AGREED AT END OF MEETING TO AGAIN MAKE ROKG POSITION CLEAR TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT, AS EARLIER NOTED, PROBLEM THIS TIME IS INTERNAL WITH THE ROKG, UNDOUBTEDLY FOCUSING ON THE BLUE HOUSE. IT APPEARS THAT PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, INCLUDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY BE BEING USED TO EMPHASIZE THE POINT. WHILE WE ARE DISINCLINED TO REACT TO THIS KIND OF PRESSURE, WE DO AGREE WITH THE ROKG THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE CLOSED. REQUEST WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF FOLLOWING LETTER TEXT WHICH WOULD BE USED ABSENT ENCLOSURE AND WHICH, IF APPROVED, WE WILL OFFER AS FINAL POSITION:

BEGIN QUOTE: IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST TO ME ON APRIL 6, I AM PLEASED TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE AUTHORITATIVE PUBLIC GUIDANCE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S SPOKESMAN IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAVE USED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AGAINST THE BLUE HOUSE.

THE SPOKESMAN, IN PARTICULAR, REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM ADMIRAL TURNER'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 9, 1977: "THERE WERE NO TAPES AND NO BUGS, AND I'M SPEAKING FOR THE CIA, THE NSA, OR ANY OTHER US INTELLIGENCE AGENCY."

LET ME ALSO EXPRESS MY REGRET FOR ANY EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED FOR THE ROKG BY THE REMARKS OF A FORMER US OFFICIAL. END QUOTE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEILLANCE, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02911
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780153-1037
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780474/aaaackwb.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3019706
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TAGS: PINR, PGOV, KS, US
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